in the Police Diary one can understand that. If not, how can it be claimed as a privileged document?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—That will be a report of a confidential nature since it comes from one officer to another officer. Under several sections of the Evidence Act privilege is granted to these papers. It depends upon several circumstances.

President.—I do not think we need go into a long discussion of the Evidence Act.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—It is difficult to understand that all police records are privileged documents. Of course we can understand that Police Diaries are privileged documents. A ruling of this nature will create a precedent and therefore we think that we must not allow it to go unchallenged. We do not think that the police papers in connection with the arrest, trial and conviction are privileged papers.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Are we to understand that all Police Diaries are privileged papers?

President.—All papers referred to in this particular question are privileged papers.

167. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—With reference to the conviction of Mr. Cherian Manjuran, will the Government be pleased to state whether it is their policy to punish a citizen for his opinions?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No. Unless it is objectionable and constitutes an offence under the law.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know the offence committed by him?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Delivering seditious speeches.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know where exactly the sedition is located?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I have answered this question in another connection. The extracts are not in my possession now.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will you please place the extracts on the table?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—It will be considered.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Favourably or unfavourably?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Will be considered.

168. Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Will the Government say whether in cases like that of Mr. Cherian Manjuran counter-propaganda through their expert orators and publications will not be a sufficient method of preserving their safety, peace and prestige?

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Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—The Government have not tried the experiment.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Why not try in future?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—We do not propose to try. Because in the first place the Government have no expert orators and secondly we have no faith in that as a cure of evils.

Mr. M. Krishna Menon.—Will you consider that some of the non-official members of this House are expert orators?

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—If factions are created in particular places, will it be a counter-propaganda?

President.—That is a hypothetical question.

169. **Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.**—Will the Government be pleased to say whether they are aware of the answer of the Government in the British Parliament when questioned by a Member why no prosecution was launched against Pandit Malavya for publishing misrepresentations about the Indian Government of having tortured those who attended the Calcutta Congress and whether the said answer was not to the effect that the good-sense of the public and counter-propaganda were sufficient in the matter?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Government regret that they have no information on the point.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether any attempt was made?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—No.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—What is the length of notice that the Hon'ble Commissioner had for answering this question?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—Can an attempt be made hence to get the information in future?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I think in the opinion of the Government there is no necessity to call for information on the point.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim.—May I know whether the Police Commissioner is in the habit of reading papers?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—Yes. Any information that will help us we will read.

Mr. George Chakyamuri.—Are you in the habit of doing it?

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan.—The information that is asked for in this question is whether the Police Commissioner has read the news in the dailies?

Mr. P. Nilakanta Menon.—I do not think I have come across any such thing.

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